

Governor's Autism Council

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 9, 2014
9:45 AM to 2:30 PM
Department of Health Services
1 W. Wilson Street, Room 630
Madison, WI 53707

Council Members: Nissan Bar-Lev, Wendy Coomer, Vivian Hazell, Milana Millan (phone), Glen Sallows, Pam Stoika
Council Members Absent: Michael Williams
DHS Facilitator: Kris Freundlich
DHS Staff: Julie Bryda, Lisa Kulow, Sue Larsen, Bill Murray
Guests: Sandy Blakeney, Dr. Nan Huai, Craig Steele, Jessica Thompson
Public comments: No members of the public were in attendance.

The meeting commenced at 10:11 AM.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Members of the Council, Department of Health Services staff and invited guests introduced themselves.

2. Update on Meeting with ASW, ASSCW and ASSEW – Pam Stoika

The Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW), the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin (ASSEW), and the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin (ASSCW) agree with the Governor's Autism Council's recommendation that children under the age of 3 years on the statewide Autism Wait List should be prioritized to begin receiving services promptly. Evidence based research indicates early intervention affords the best outcomes and highest success rate. ASW, ASSEW and ASSCW submitted a joint letter to the Office of the Governor; they await a response.

3. Operational

- Council members reviewed minutes from the May 23, 2013, July 24, 2013, and November 25, 2013, meetings.
 - Nissan B.-L. made a motion to approve the May 23, 2013, meeting minutes; Pam seconded the motion; motion carries.
 - Nissan B.-L. made a motion to approve the July 24, 2013, meeting minutes; Wendy C. seconded the motion; motion carries.
 - Wendy C. made a motion to approve the November 25, 2013, meeting minutes; Nissan B.L. seconded the motion; motion carries.
- 2014 Autism Council scheduled meeting dates are April 10, July 10 and October 9.
- Council members requested 2013-2015 budget information.

4. The Affordable Care Act – Craig Steele

- Craig Steele, Project Manager in the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, provided a BadgerCare Plus & Affordable Care Act (ACA) update and distributed a copy of his PowerPoint presentation.

- Implementation is delayed three months to April 1 due to issues with the federal ACA website at: www.healthcare.gov.
 - Parents and caretaker relatives over 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and children over 300% FPL that apply are eligible for BadgerCare Plus before February 1, 2014, will be enrolled minimally through March 31, 2014 (effective the month they are determined eligible).
 - Childless adults below 100% FPL not already enrolled in BadgerCare Plus can apply for BadgerCare Plus starting on February 3, 2014 (effective April 1, 2014).
 - Parents and caretaker relatives and childless adults over 100% FPL and children over 300% FPL that apply on/after February 1, 2014, will be referred to the federal Marketplace. DHS will begin sending referrals to the Marketplace on February 3, 2014.
 - Effective February 1, 2014, all new BadgerCare Plus enrollees will be enrolled into the Standard Plan.
 - Timeline:
 - February 1: DHS will begin processing BadgerCare Plus applications under new eligibility rules and applications transferred from Marketplace.
 - February 17: DHS notifies members of coverage changes effective April 1, 2014.
 - March 31: New BadgerCare Plus coverage changes effective; Marketplace open enrollment ends.
 - April 15: Marketplace enrollment deadline for coverage effective April 1.
- DHS Outreach and Transition:
 - Letters were sent to individuals that will be transitioning to private coverage in 2014, to individuals on the wait list and to those who may be determined eligible by the federal Marketplace.
 - Call campaign starts today for childless adults; calls to transitioning members will follow.
 - Implemented a Wisconsin transition infrastructure including Certified Application Counselors (CAC), Navigators, Regional Enrollment Networks (REN) e4healthwi.org and insurance agents. Outreach included trainings, kick-off meetings and town hall meetings.
 - Further information is available on the Wisconsin Health Care Options for 2014 web page: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health-care.
 - Council members inquired about expenditures Wisconsin incurred due to the delay. Craig S. shared that letters were sent; costs were not significant.
 - Council members asked about transitional time; the greatest risks/biggest gaps in which children might encounter gaps in coverage. Craig S. relayed that if a child is in the program by February 1 and is over 300% FPL, coverage is through March 31. DHS developed a strategy to identify children enrolled in the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver program that may not be enrolled in BadgerCare Plus.
 - Council members discussed the cost difference between BadgerCare Plus and the Marketplace. Premiums should be similar (based on percentage of income); deductibles will vary based on the tier selected.
 - Adults leaving BadgerCare Plus for the Marketplace may lose dental coverage; dental is required for children. Plans can offer pediatric dental as part of the plan; changes can allow stand-alone dental.

5. Youth in Transition – Jessica Thompson

- Jessica Thompson, Youth in Transition Lead for the CLTS Team, reported on several program initiatives.
 - Youth in Transition: Jessica T. distributed the brochure, "You Can Work," <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/P0/p00516.pdf>, which stemmed from long-term

care sustainability plans—to help youth (middle school age and older) with disabilities to achieve employment, resulting in a jump-start in skills and experience when they transition into adult long-term care. County CLTS service coordinators are encouraged to participate in Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meetings.

- Let's Get to Work Grant Project: This is a collaboration with the Department of Workforce Development's (DWD) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the Board for People with Development Disabilities (BPDD). Grants, in nine school districts across Wisconsin, examine interventions to improve employment outcomes for youth with developmental disabilities in Wisconsin. The CLTS Waivers can fund mentoring service for participants.
- Wisconsin PROMISE Grant: Wisconsin was awarded \$32.5 million over five years to conduct research to compare how youth ages 14-16 years receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and their family members are impacted by interventions; to help increase employment, education and income outcomes.
 - Over half of youth on SSI are not served by traditional community support services; they have unmet needs and have been reluctant to participate in available education and employment services.
 - Enrollment of 2,000 youth and families must occur within two years. One thousand participants (chosen randomly) will be assigned to the project activities group and will have a DVR case manager that provides expanded activities and services to engage youth and families to achieve education and employment goals.
 - DVR policy is to accept youth two years prior to graduation; youth will receive earlier access to DVR services and coordination and will be connected to wraparound health services.
 - Participants may open a savings account with \$25; grant will match up to \$100.
 - Council members commented that youth with the most significant issues have the greatest need. Members inquired about how are families identified and how the Council can assist.
 - Wisconsin is strengthening departments' inter-agency work and ensuring that IEP meetings include all involved stakeholders.
 - To receive the monthly PROMISE Grant E-Newsletter, e-mail JessicaL.Thompson@wisconsin.gov.
 - Enrollment will launch statewide; focus is the Milwaukee area and youth age 16 years.
 - Outreach to potential participants will take place at various conference information tables with on-site enrollment, and will be promoted by WI FACETS, Wisconsin Statewide Parent Initiative (WISPI) and through CESAs statewide. Council members are encouraged to share PROMISE Grant information with groups and families.
 - Milana M. will share PROMISE Grant information with the Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW) Chapters and additional autism channels.
- Project SEARCH: This program for students with disabilities in their last year of high school provides training and education that lead to integrated employment for individuals with disabilities. Students participate in unpaid internships at community businesses. The global program expanded to Wisconsin with funding from the Wisconsin Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) in 2008-2012. A PowerPoint handout and Wisconsin map identifying the seven 2013-2014 Project SEARCH sites were distributed.

6. Council Discussion on Insurance/Waiver Coordination – Sandy Blakeney

- Sandy Blakeney, Program & Planning Analyst for the CLTS Team, reported on the coordination of benefits (COB) for insurance and the CLTS Waiver services. The Department issued a memo in November of 2013 to clarify Medicaid co-payment policies for persons under age 18 years, which also applies to Medicaid Waiver programs.

7. Division of Long Term Care (DLTC)/Bureau of Long Term Support (BLTS) Updates – Sue Larsen

- Data: Children’s Services Section (CSS) now has a data analyst on board to develop reports from various systems across CSS programs; will produce a comprehensive CSS Quarterly Data Report. The document, “Children’s Services Programs: Proposed Quarterly Data Reports,” was distributed.
 - Report will effectively gather data on autism treatment producing results.
 - Sue requested Council member comment on the list of reports. Members suggested:
 - Providers have information that Counties do not; consult with a small group of providers to determine what data they currently compile and what data is needed.
 - Autism Treatment Service reports: Breakout the data for Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED) Waiver and Developmental Disability (DD) Waiver.
 - A statewide web-based data system is in development for Counties; corresponding reports are in development.
 - Council members discussed data collection to indicate if the child attends school or homeschool.

8. Updates

- DHS Autism Wait List: 560 children are currently included on the statewide Autism Wait List; 10 children’s names are released to the county waiver agencies each week, though the wait list count remains steady. Wait time is approximately one year. Meetings are scheduled to review strategies to increase the number of slots released each week and to discuss the budget.
- 2013-2015 Biennial Budget: Council members discussed coordinated service team expansion to include income counseling for children, and Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSAS) Comprehensive Community Services Program to provide psycho-social services. Both budget initiatives require counties to deliver services in a regionalized approach. Statewide expansion is targeted for July 2014; Council members requested an update at the next meeting.
- Council Membership: Autism Council has three vacancies. A parent had submitted an application to the Office of the Governor six months ago and another application is pending; Wisconsin County Human Services Association has submitted several applications.
- Members shared that a site-based provider cannot afford to continue work at the CLTS Waiver reimbursement rate; provider’s accountant advised to only accept patients with private insurance. The recommendation is for the provider to contact DHS via the Provider Registry e-mail box at DHSPROVIDERREGISTRY@WISCONSIN.GOV.
- Vivian H. reported that due to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) issues, Goodwill is no longer hosting Beyond Boundaries of Autism (BBA) as a program as of March 14. The closing of BBA will affect 90 families and 120 staff.
- Bullying of children on the autism spectrum in school is a topic of interest to parents. Nissan B.-L. will research potential speakers to discuss bullying issues at a future Council meeting.
- Outcome study discussions during prior Council meetings did not discuss Select Survey—how does it work; what kind of data would be helpful. Council members expressed interest in further discussing Select Survey and Survey Monkey for outcome studies at a future Council meeting.
- Staff is gathering data for May meeting with Department of Public Instruction (DPI); will discuss education and need for two-year services.

9. Autism Council Meeting Adjournment

- The Council meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.